



February 1, 2005



Providence man who shot at police officers in a cruiser pleads guilty to a federal firearms offense

Carlos Gomes, 22, of Providence, has pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm, admitting that he fired a gun at two Providence Police officers who were parked in a cruiser.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which Gomes entered yesterday before U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith in U.S. District Court, Providence. Gomes is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for May. Gomes is also facing state charges in the shooting.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on January 9, 2004, Gomes ran toward a police cruiser parked on Berkshire Street and fired a round that lodged in the front door on the passenger side, where Officer James Barros was sitting. Officers Barros and Lucio Andreozzi got out of the cruiser and chased Gomes. When Gomes turned toward the officers, they fired at him but he continued to flee.

The officers found Gomes hiding between parked cars and, after backup officers arrived, they arrested him and retrieved a .25 caliber pistol that had a cartridge jammed in the chamber.

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Gomes, of 36 Woodmont Street, Providence, has a prior felony drug conviction. The statutory maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is ten years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose is prosecuting it under **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 550 years in federal prison.

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